



STATE OF IOWA

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
JUDY A. JEFFREY, DIRECTOR

DATE: September 19, 2005

TO: LEA Superintendents

FROM: Pam Pfitzenmaier, Administrator, Division of Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education

SUBJECT: Funds for Assessment Purposes

Again this school year, under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) Iowa was allocated funds to support the development of statewide assessment systems in a way that would enable the requirements of the Act to be met. Since assessment systems reside at the local level, it is appropriate that a majority of these funds are distributed to public school districts. These funds are meant to provide support for local district assessment systems. Funds retained at the state level will assist in continued support for the Iowa Collaborative Assessment Modules (ICAM) and development of an alternate assessment for English language learners.

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) will allocate funds to public school districts based on a per-pupil (K-12) amount of \$6, to support your efforts to enhance your district-wide assessment system while meeting the expectations of NCLB. These funds will be able to be used for LEA activities directed toward meeting state and federal assessment, accountability, and reporting requirements. The intent is that these funds are to be used to supplement or enhance your current assessment system, not to supplant funds currently allocated.

Allowable activities include personnel (time), supplies, and equipment directly related to:

- Developing assessments for district reading, mathematics, and science standards;
- Aligning district-wide assessments to local standards and benchmarks;
- Purchase of off-the-shelf assessments used to measure standards;
- Scoring of district-wide assessments;
- Analysis and reporting of assessment data;
- Professional development related to implementation of district-wide assessments; and
- Costs associated with management of the district-wide assessment system.

Each school district is asked to submit a budget based on an amount as determined by the September 2004 official enrollment count date. This budget form and allocations can be found at: <http://www.state.ia.us/educate/ecese/nclb/t6pa.html>

Excluded expenditures include, but may not be limited to:

- Conference fees or registrations;
- Conference travel expenses;
- Physical facilities;
- School buses/vehicles;
- Title I school choice, transportation, or supplemental services;
- Computers in classrooms; and
- Wiring and technology infrastructure.

Please keep in mind that these funds are only guaranteed for the 2005-2006 school year. These funds may not be carried over to the 2006-2007 school year. Future funding is contingent on congressional appropriations for assessment purposes under NCLB. It is the intent of the DE to provide annual funds directly to local districts to the fullest extent possible and within the limitations of the annual appropriation. Depending on your needs and funds available as a district, it may be advisable to collaborate with neighboring LEAs or AEAs to maximize the impact of these resources, with a vision toward sustainability.

If you have any questions, please contact Paul Cahill at paul.cahill@ed.state.ia.us or 515-281-3944.

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